

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, ROAD AGENT
AND TREASURER
OF THE
TOWN OF STODDARD,
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD
FOR THE
Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1897,
AND THE
VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR 1896

BRADFORD, N. H.
F. H. HOWE, JOB PRINTER,
1897.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1897.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN OF STODDARD,
APRIL 1, 1896.

Resident Invoice,	\$122,466.00
Non-resident Invoice,	49,582.00
Total,	<u>\$172,048.00</u>

The State, County, Town, School, and Highway Taxes are assessed at the rate of \$1.72 on a hundred dollars.

The amount required to be raised A. D. 1896, was as follows :

State tax,	\$485.00
County tax,	267.99
Town tax,	800.00
School tax,	485.00
Highway tax,	800.00
Library tax,	29.50
Total,	<u>\$2,867.49</u>

RECEIPTS FOR 1896.

Cash in Treasury, Feb. 15, 1896,	\$ 619.56
Rec'd from County, support of poor,	254.37
S. A. Carter, Savings Bank tax,	324.20
" " Literary Fund,	46.90
Town Clerk, dog licenses,	74.33
Geo. E. Dodge, overdrawn, 1895, ..	3.72
Pool-table licenses,	2.92
A. M. Horton,	5.15
A. P. Howe, overcharge on printing Reports,	3.40
W.P. Hodgman, Collector taxes '95, ..	316.00
" " " " '96, ..	2,050.00

Rec'd from B. H. Griffiths, Janitor, 1896,.....	\$ 3.61
Mary J. Chapin, on note,.....	200.00
Josiah M. Rice, " "	200.00
Willis E. Shedd, " "	1,000.00
Wesley P. Hodgman, " "	100.00
Paschal P. Hodgman, " "	200.00
Susan A. Hodgman, " "	100 00
Samuel Bentote, " "	2.00
Total,	<u>\$5 506.16</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid E. Stevens, Int. and Prin. on note,.....	\$1,818.00
Mary J. Chapin, Int. on note to Jan. 1, '97,	9.00
Susan A. Hodgman, " "	3.00
Wesley P. Hodgman, " "	3.00
Josiah M. Rice, " "	3.00
Paschal P. Hodgman, " "	6.00
Willie E. Shedd, " "	3.07
" " " "	24.00
Total,	<u>\$1,869.07</u>

LIBRARY.

Paid H. E. Messinger, Library assessments,	\$ 29.50
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BOUNTY ON HAWKS.

Paid for 11 hawks, @ 25c.,	\$ 2.75
Rec'd from the State,	2.75

DAMAGE TO SHEEP BY DOGS.

Paid James D. Cutter, for 10 sheep killed,	\$ 15 40
Wm. H. Chapin, 7 " "	10.78
Riley Barrett, 8 " "	12.32
Frank J. Reed, 2 " "	3.08
Total,	<u>\$ 41.58</u>

Paid Hiram Blake, Counsel fee in Farwell case,	\$ 2.00
Geo. F. Ball, Insurance on Town Hall,.....	17.00
F. L. Bass & Co., School supplies,.....	10.00
J.F. Whittemore, enumeration of children, &c.	9.65
C. H. Merrill, painting of road machine,.....	4.00
I. A. Loveland, returning births. deaths, and marriages, .....	.75
W. H. Spalter, School supplies,	21.07
E. A. Jones, Survey work on Town line,	3.00
J. P. Holt, over-tax,	2 00
M. Perkins, returning births, deaths, and marriages,	1.25
W. H. Spalter, Town supplies,.....	5.25
Henry E. Messinger, Recording births, deaths, and marriages,.....	2.25
Total,	<hr/> \$164.22

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid R. J. Brown, services as Constable and Dog Constable,	\$ 15.15
R. J. Brown, services as Supervisor,	3.00
Henry E. Spaulding, " "	3.00
Fred S. Reed, " Auditor,.....	3.00
Elias B. Smith, services on School Board,	10.95
Lizzie M. Jefts, " " "	10.00
Geo. E. Dodge, services as Road Agt., 1895,	15.00
Mrs. H. E. Messinger, serv's on School B'd,	10.00
Wm. H. Chapin, services as Treasurer,	20.00
" " " Supervisor,.....	3.00
" " " Health Officer,	5.30
Henry E. Messinger, " Town Clerk,.....	25.00
" " " Selectman,	47.00
J. M. Rice, " "	25.00
" " " Overseer of Poor,	20.00
C. J. E. Santesson, services as Selectman, .	49.00
Wesley P. Hodgman, " Tax Collector,	30.00
Total,	<hr/> \$294.40

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

Paid S. A. Carter, State tax,	\$ 485.00
Jerome E. Wright, County tax,	267.99
Total,	<u>\$752.99</u>

SCHOOLS.

Paid J. M. Rice, School Money,	\$ 190.00
“ “ “ “	150.00
“ “ “ “	84.99
“ “ “ “	74.53
Total,	<u>\$499.52</u>

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid J. M. Rice, support of poor,	\$ 37.00
“ “ “ “	80.00
“ “ “ “	100.00
“ “ “ “	85.98
Total,	<u>\$ 302.98</u>

REPAIRING HIGHWAY.

Paid C. H. Merrill, Road Agent,	\$ 39.45
“ “ “ “	169.25
“ “ “ “	395.30
“ “ “ “	44.63
“ “ “ “	15.80
“ “ “ “	42.64
“ “ “ “	92.93
“ “ “ “	14.10
“ “ “ “ plank,	6.73
C. O’Niel, work on highway, 1896,	1.20
Lyman Barden, work on highway, 1895,60
Total,	<u>\$ 822.63</u>

WILSON'S NEW ROAD.

Paid Henry Wilson,	\$ 50.00
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REPAIRING OF TOWN HALL.

Paid W. E. Abbott, drawing of shingles,	\$ 1.50
Charles P. Jefts, shingles for Town Hall,	24.75
C. F. King, work on Town Hall,	12.00
C. H. Howard, " " "	1.73
C. Hastings, " " "	17.60
George H. Lane, " " "	13.50
Perkins Bros., hardware, .....	.96
C. H. Merrill, work on Town Hall,	123.34
Frank J. Reed, hardware, ect.	3.87
Total,	\$ 199.25

TAXES ABATED.

On Book of 1896,	\$ 33.52
" 1895,	14.70
" 1894,	6.87
" 1886,	15.59

TOWN NOTES OUTSTANDING.

Mary J. Chapin,	int. from Jan. 1897, \$ 200.00
Josiah M. Rice,	" " " 200.00
Willie E. Shedd,	" " " 1,000.00
Wesley P. Hodgman,	" " " 100.00
Paschal P. Hodgman,	" " " 200.00
Susan A. Hodgman,	" " " 100.00
Total,	\$1,800.00

RECAPITULATION.

Selectmen,

DR.

To Funds from all sources,.....

\$5,506.16

Selectmen,

CR.

Paid E. Stevens, Prin. and Int. on note,..... \$1,818.00

State and County taxes, 752.99

Support of schools, 499.52

Support of poor, 302.98

Repairs of highways and bridges, 822.63

Breaking roads in 1896, 189.75

" " 1897, 32.22

Damage to sheep by dogs, 41.58

Support of Library, 29.50

Services of Town officers, 294.40

Miscellaneous expenses, 164.22

Henry Wilson, for new road, 50.00

Repairing of Town Hall, 199.25

Mary J. Chapin, Int. on Town note, 9.00

Susan A. Hodgman, " " 3.00

Wesley P. Hodgman, " " 3.00

Josiah M. Rice, " " 3.00

Paschal P. Hodgman, " " 6.00

Willie E. Sheed, " " 3.07

" " " " 24.00

Total, \$5,248.11

Amount in Treasury, 258.05

Total, \$5,506.16

LIABILITIES.

Due on Town notes, \$1,800.00

to C. H. Hersey, 6.00

to School District, 46.64

Due to H. A. Curtis, (damage to sheep) order on Treasurer,	\$ 27.72
Total,	\$1,880.36

ASSETS.

Due from County, support of poor,	\$ 101.14
on Collectors' Books of 1893, '94, '95, '96,	1,893.38
Amount in Treasury, Feb. 15, 1897,	258.05
Total Assets,	\$2,252.57
Total Liabilities,	1,880.36
	<hr/>
	\$ 372.21

Respectfully submitted,

CARL J. E. SANTESSON,	} Selectmen of Stoddard.
HENRY E. MESSINGER,	
JOSIAH M. RICE,	

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Overseer of the Poor, and Treasurer of the School Board, also of C. H. Merrill as Road Agent, and find them correctly cast, and safely vouched.

FREDERICK S. REED, Auditor.

Report of Road Agent,

For the year ending Feb. 15, 1897.

1896.

Apr. 18.	2 men, 9 hours' work on Keene road, 1 man 5 h'rs.	\$3.45
20.	3 men, 10 " " " " " " " " " " " "	4.50
21.	3 men, 1 pair horses, 10 hours on Washington and Marlow road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	6.50
22.	3 men, 10 hours' work on bridge by M. Robb's and sluice near Shoults' house, " " " " " " " " " " " "	4.50
22.	1 pair horses. 5 hours, " " " " " " " " " " " "	1.00
28.	3 men, 1 pair horses, on Keene road, 10 hours, " " " " " " " " " " " "	6.50
29.	3 men, 1 " " " " " " " " " " " "	6.50
30.	3 men, 1 " " " " " " " " " " " "	6.50
May 1.	3 men, 2 pair horses, 10 hours, on Marlow road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	8.50
6.	1 man, 4 hours' work, putting in culvert on Mill Village road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	.60
11.	4 men, 2 horses, 10 hours' work on Town road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	8.00
13.	5 " " " " " " " " " " " "	9.50
14.	6 " " " " " " " " " " " "	13.00
15.	5 men, 4 horses, 10 hours' work on Marlow road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	11.50
15.	2 men, 3 hours, putting in sluice on Keene road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	.90
16.	2 men, 2 horses, 10 hours, on Hancock road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	5.00
16.	3 men, 2 pr. horses, 5 hours, carting gravel on Hancock road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	4.25
16.	2 men, 1 pr. horses, 5 hours, carting gravel, at Box Village, " " " " " " " " " " " "	2.50
18.	4 men, 1 pr. horses, 10 hours, on Hancock and Nelson road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	8.00
19.	3 men, 1 pr. horses, 5 hours, from Mill Village to C. Cutter's, " " " " " " " " " " " "	3.25
19.	1 man, putting in sluice on Valley road, " " " " " " " " " " " "	.45
19.	2 men, repairing High bridge, 5 hours, " " " " " " " " " " " "	1.50

May 20.	3 men, 1 pr. horses, 10 hours, on road to Center,	\$ 6.50
21.	5 " " " " " "	9.50
22.	3 " " " " on Marlow road,	6.50
23.	3 " " " " " "	6.50
25.	3 " " " " on hill by Mr. Taylor's,	6.50
26.	4 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine,	10.00
27.	6 men, " " " "	13.00
27.	1 man, 4 hours' work, .....	.60
28.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 9 hours,	11.70
29.	" " " " " 10 hours.	13 00
30.	3 men, 1 pr. horses, digging stone on Knowlton hill,	6 50
	Use of harrow, 2 days,	1 00
June 1.	8 men, 2 pr. horses, 10 hours, on road-machine, ...	16.00
1.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to Knowlton hill,	1.00
2.	4 men, 2 pr. horses, on road-machine, 10 hours, ...	10.00
2.	2 men, 10 hours, @ \$1.25,	2.50
2.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to work on Marlow road,	1.00
3.	5 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 10 hours,	11.50
3.	2 men, 10 hours, @ \$1.25,	2.50
3.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to work,	1.00
4.	5 men, 2 pr. horses, on road-machine, 10 hours,	11.50
4.	2 men, @ \$1.25,	2.50
4.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to Marlow road,	1.00
5.	5 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 10 hours, ...	11.50
5.	2 men, @ \$1.25,	2.50
5.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to Marlow road,	1.00
6.	5 men, 2 pr. horses, 10 hours, on road to Marlow,	11.00
6.	2 men, @ \$1.25,	2.50
6.	1 pr. horses, carrying men to work,	1.00
8.	3 men, putting plank in bridges, Keene r'd, 4 h'rs,	1.80
8.	Team, .....	.50
9.	4 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, from Co. work to Nelson road,	10.00
9.	2 men, 6 hours,	1.80
9.	1 man, 5 hours, .....	.75
10.	7 men, 3 pr. horses and road-machine, on Keene and Hancock road,	16.60

June 10.	1 man, 10 hours,	\$ 1.25
	Cart, .....	.50
11.	8 men, 4 pr. horses and road-machine, on Hancock and Keene road,	20.00
11.	3 men, 10 hours, @ \$1.25,	3.75
	2 carts,	1.00
12.	9 men, 4 pr. horses and road machine, on Hancock and Keene road, 10 hours,	21.50
12.	2 men, 10 hours,	2.50
12.	2 carts,	1.00
13.	9 men, 4 pr. horses and road-machine, Keene road,	21.50
13.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
15.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, on Antrim road, 10 hours,	13.00
15.	1 man,	1.25
16.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, on Antrim road, 10 hours,	13.00
16.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
17.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 10 hours, Mill Village to Antrim line,	13.00
17.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
18.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, on Wash- ington road,	13.00
18.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
19.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 10 hours, on Washington road,	13.00
19.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
20.	6 men, 2 pr. horses and road-machine, 10 hours, on Washington road,	13.00
22.	3 men, 10 hours, repairing High bridge and sluice near Island pond,	4.50
23.	6 men, 3 pr. horses and road-machine, on Sullivan road, 10 hours,	15.00
23.	Cart, .....	.50
23.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
24.	6 men, 3 pr. horses and road-machine, on Sullivan road, 10 hours,	15.00
24.	2 men, 10 hours,	2.50

Jun 24.	Cart,	\$.50
25.	6 men, 3 pr. horses on road-machine, on John Scott road,	15 00
25.	2 men,	2 50
26.	5 men, 3 pr. horses & road-mach., on Sullivan r'd,	13.50
26.	2 men, 10 hours,	2 50
27.	5 men, 3 pr. horses on road-machine, 10 ho rs,	13.50
27.	2 men, 10 hours on Dr. Hale's road,	2.50
27.	Cart, .....	.50
27.	1 man, 8 hours' work,	1.20
29.	5 men, 3 pr. horses on road-machine, on West road to Washington,	13.50
29.	Cart, .....	.50
29.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
30.	4 men, 1 pr. horses, on sluices, on Middletown and Washington road.	8 00
30.	1 man, 10 hours,	1.25
July 7.	4 men, 3 pr. horses. 8 hours, on road machine, on Albert Reed's road,	9.60
7.	Plow and cart,	1.00
8.	4 men, 1 pr. horses on E. Shedd's road, 10 hours,	8.00
17.	2 men, 2 hours, repairing bridge, .....	.30
20.	3 men, 2 hours, repairing bridge on Keene road, ...	.74
Aug. 4.	5 men, 1 pr. horses. blasting rock,	9.50
4.	Cart, .....	.50
5.	5 men, 1 pr. horses, 5 hours, blasting rock, Mill Village road,	4.75
5.	Cart, .....	.50
17.	2 men, 2 hours, repairing High bridge, .....	.30
22.	1 man, 5 hours, repairing bridge, Canada brook, Jeff's, cutting brush, 4 days, .....	.75
		6.00
Sept. 7.	3 men, 1 pr. horses on road to Center, 10 hours,	6.50
10.	5 men, 1 pr. horses on Knowlton Hill,	9.50
11.	2 men, cutting bushes on Keene road,	3.00
12.	" " " " " "	3.00
14.	4 men, 2 pr. horses & road-mach., on Reed's r'd,	10.00
15.	" " " " " "	10.00
16.	4 men, 1 pr. horses, on Knowlton Hill, 10 hours,	8.00

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 15, 1896,	\$ 619.56
Wesley P. Hodgman, taxes, 1895,	316.00
“ “ “ 1896,	2,050.00
Dog licenses,	74.33
Geo. H. Hart, license on pool-table,	2.92
Solon A. Carter, Savings Bank tax,	324.20
“ “ Literary Fund,	46.90
County, support of poor,	254.37
Geo. E. Dodge, Road Agent, 1895, overdrawn, ...	3.72
Samuel Bentote, aid in 1895,	2.00
A. P. Howe & Son, discounts on reports, 1895, ...	3.40
A. M. Horton, tax for 1895,	5.15
B. H. Griffiths, janitor of Town hall,	3.61
J. M. Rice, on town note,	200.00
From Selectmen,	1,600.00
Total,	<u>\$5,506.16</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Interest and Principal on Town notes,	\$1,600.00
State tax,	485.00
County tax,	267.99
On Town orders,	2,895.12
Total,	<u>\$5,248.11</u>
Total amount of Receipts,	\$5,506.16
Total amount of Disbursements,	<u>5,248.11</u>
Balance in hands of Treasurer,	\$258.05

WM. H. CHAPIN, Treasurer.

OVERSEER OF POOR.

Paid Norman A. Howe, County charge,	.....	\$138.60
Amanda M. Wells, " "	.....	72.50
John McClure, " "	.....	32.59
Joseph Sweeney, " "	.....	9.00
Clarie E. Reed, " "	.....	3.00
Albert Barnes, Town "	.....	12.00
Clarence S. Bowen, County "	.....	18.39
Arthur E. Jennings, " "	.....	4.00
Tramps, Town "	.....	14.50
Total,		<hr/> \$303.98
County charges,		\$277.48
Town charges,		26.50
		<hr/> \$303.98
Received from Town Treasurer,		\$302.98

Respectfully submitted,

JOSIAH M. RICE, Overseer.

Report of Secretary and Treasurer

OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

The Report of the Library Trustees for the year ending March 1, 1897, is as follows: We have received one volume donated by Mr. Henry Allen; by the State, the Histories of the 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th Regiments, New Hampshire Vols., making a total of books in the Library, including Book of Reference, 454, not including sundry files and phamplets.

Cash on hand, Feb. 15, 1896,.....	\$18.15
Received for fines,.....	.56
" Catalogue, .....	.05
" Town Treasurer,.....	29.50
	<hr/>
	\$48.26

Paid De Wolf, Fisk & Co.,.....	14.12
Express,.....	1.10
Librarian,	12.88
	<hr/>
	\$28.10
Balance on hand,.....	\$20.16

H. E. MESSINGER, Sec. & Treas.

Janitor's Report.

Rec'd of Fred Jennings, for use of hall,.....	\$7.50
Edwin Merritt, " " "	5.50
Samuel O. Brown, " " "	2.00
<hr/>	
Total,	\$15.00

Paid Geo. Richardson, 1 cord of wood,.....	\$3.00
H. W. Griffith, for sawing, .....	.50
Frank J. Reed, oil and lamp chimneys,	1.89
Services of Janitor,.....	6.00
Cash in hands of Treas.,.....	3.61
<hr/>	
Total,	\$15.00

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. GRIFFITHS, Janitor.

School Treasurer's Report.

DIVISION NO. 1.

July 3, 1896, paid Geo. W. Ruland, teaching,.....	\$65.00
Nov. 24, " " " " " ".....	58.50
Dec. 3, H. E. Messenger, for wood and incidentals,	12.34
Feb. 15, 1897, W. H. Chapin, rep's on school house,	1.00

DIVISION NO. 2.

July 2, 1896, paid Myrton A. Farnsworth, teaching,	\$61.00
Dec. 2, Helen C. Farnsworth, teaching,.....	44.00
2, Geo. R. Jefts, work on school house,.....	5.05
2, Mrs. P. P. Hodgeman, board of teacher,.....	22.00
2, Geo. A. Carey, care of school house,.....	1.50
2, Walter Jefts, for wood,.....	3.00
2, C. P. Jefts, for shingles,.....	7.44
2, Lizzie M. Jefts, work &c.,.....	2.00

DIVISION NO. 3.

July 3, paid Emma E. Cutter, teaching,.....	\$45.00
Dec. 3, " " " " " ".....	78.00
3, Mrs. C. G. McClure, board of teacher,.....	20.00
Feb. 15, E. B. Smith, carrying children,.....	5.00
15, " " for wood,.....	5.00
15, Samuel Smith, janitor,.....	2.00
15, C. X. Cutter, carrying children,.....	18.00
15, Daniel Swett, " " " ".....	5.00
15, Town of Sullivan, tuition from children,.....	35.70

	\$499.53
Received of Town Treasurer,.....	\$499.53

JOSIAH M. RICE, Treasurer.

REPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD

Of Stoddard for the year 1896-97.

In accordance with the provisions of the statute, the School Board presents the following report: We are pleased to be able to report that a commendable degree of interest has been shown in a portion of our schools on the subject of education and a disposition to help in rendering our schools pleasant and profitable though but few can be said to take that deep interest, which is quite necessary to make them what they should be, and to enable us to realize to the fullest extent the countless advantage which our common school system is well calculated to afford. It is the design of this system to afford a respectable business education to all. Our public schools should rank among the most important interests of the town. But is it so? Our system of free schools is the pride and boast of New England, the foundation of our free institutions and the defence of a free government. The valleys and the hill-sides are dotted all over with school-houses, whose doors are thrown open alike to all the high and low, the rich and poor, regardless of color or nationality. An institution which is capable of doing so much to advance the civilization, refinement, prosperity and security of a community, appeals to you for a generous support.

The problem of education is one that assumes new phases with the change of time. New methods of dealing with educational matters are constantly coming up and it requires no little effort to keep up with the times. Our school privileges will still be inferior to the larger towns and cities of our country, when we have secured to our scholars all the advantages it is possible for us to give them, but if we can be so earnest in the use of what privileges we do have, as to gain the same results, the DISCIPLINE of study, which is the main thing after all, we have the greater honor. In order to know about a matter one must

see for themselves—one cannot see through another's eyes; therefore parents must visit the schools to know for themselves how it is progressing.

Do not wait until the last day, for there is no remedy then for anything that has gone wrong. Become well acquainted with your teacher and school; make a confidant of her in the interests of your children sometimes, and you will be well repaid. Put forth the same efforts to familiarize yourself with school affairs as you would in a business venture and the day will not be far distant when poor schools and school troubles will be almost unknown and unheard of.

It is a matter of regret that singing is not often practiced in our schools. A few moments devoted to this exercise several times a day does much to soothe and harmonize the feelings of teacher and scholars.

Its natural tendency is to revive the spirits and restore the elasticity of the mind and to promote good nature and pleasant feeling. Some School Song books would be a needful addition to our school supplies another year.

Our youngest scholars need inexpensive supplies of pictures, letters, blocks, &c. to busy and amuse themselves with, as much as the older ones need books and charts. We hope some such things will form a part of the school supplies another year. The day is not far distant when our teachers will be required to be prepared to use the Kindergarten methods and gifts with the little children.

During more than six months that we do not have school, our Public Library ought to be utilized as a means of education with our oldest scholars. A taste for good reading now formed is a preventive of temptation and also a source of amusement and recreation not only now but in later years when all other means of recreation may be cut off. The report of the schools is as follows:

CENTER SCHOOL NO. 1.

Both terms of this school were taught by Rev. Geo. W. Ruland of Stoddard. The school was not a success. We hope to see a more comfortable and attractive school-room in this division before long. The pupils could be more easily managed in a room two thirds its present size. The Spring term consisted of 10 weeks, attended by 24 different pupils ; average attendance, 21 ; instances of tardiness, 26 ; visits by School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 31.

The Fall term consisted of nine weeks ; attended by 26 pupils ; average attendance, 21 ; instances of tardiness, 21 ; visits of School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 7.

WEST STODDARD SCHOOL NO. 2.

The Spring term of this school was taught by Mr. Merton A. Farnsworth, of Washington, N. H. This school was noted for good order, studiousness, and thoroughness. Mr. Farnsworth had the happy faculty of enforcing strict order in the school-room, while being a companion for the boys in out-door sports. This term consisted of 10 weeks ; number of pupils, 8 ; average number, 7 ; instances of tardiness, 2 ; visits of School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 47.

The Fall term of this school was taught by Miss Helen C. Farnsworth, of Lancaster, Mass. This school was a success. The classes in history, physical geography and physiology were excellent. The primary class made very good progress. Length of school, 11 weeks ; number of scholars, 8 ; average number, 8 ; visits by School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 34.

SOUTH STODDARD SCHOOL NO. 3.

The Spring and Fall terms of this school were taught by Miss Emma E. Cutter, of Stoddard. Miss Cutter secured good order, thoroughly learned lessons, and the love and respect of her pupils. She is a live teacher, ever alert for learning or procuring whatever can benefit her scholars.

The Spring term consisted of 10 weeks, attended by 18 different scholars ; average number, 18 ; instances of tardiness, 1 ; visits by School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 78.

The Fall term consisted of 12 weeks, attended by 19 pupils ; average number, 19 ; instances of tardiness, 1 ; visits of School Board, 6 ; whole number of visitors, 65.

ROLL OF HONOR FOR THE YEAR.

Annie Smith,	Charlie Newell,
Lizzie Smith,	Leon Shoults.
Ella Smith.	

FOR ONE TERM.

Gracie Davis,	Sammie Smith,
Lucretia M. Abbott,	George A. Corey,
Nellie E. Hobbs,	Everett Trask,
Ethel M. Woodward,	Iva Spofford,
Earle Spofford,	Carl D. Abbott,
Bertha Blanchard,	Cora Smith,
Gracie Trask,	Harry Beam.
Fred Sweeney,	

We have schooled 57 scholars in town during the past year, at the rate of \$8.73 per capita ; also, in the town of Sullivan at an average of \$7.70. The three schools in town have aggregated 62 weeks, at an expense of \$393.50 for wages and board.

Mrs. Messinger, one of the members of the board, resigned about Feb. 1 on account of sickness in her family, thereby causing a vacancy which has not been filled, as the business of the year was nearly completed.

ELIAS B. SMITH,	} School Board
LIZZIE M. JEFTS,	
	} of Stoddard.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TO THE SELECTMEN:— IN Compliance with an act of the legislature, passed June session 1887, requiring Clerks of cities and towns to furnish a transcript of the record of births, marriages and deaths, to the municipal officers, for publication in the annual reports, I hereby submit the following:—

Births registered in the town of Stoddard, N. H. for the year ending Dec. 31, 1896.

Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Name of Child (if any)	Sex and Condition			Name of Father	Maiden name of Mother	Color of Parents	Residence of Father	Occupation of Father	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother	Age of Father	Age of Mother
			Male or Female	Living or Still-born	No. child 1st 2d &c.									
Jan 26	Stoddard	Oliver B Butler	M	L	6	W Lewis A Butler	Louisa A Bancro	W	Stoddard	Hotel Keeper	Henryville P Q	Highgate Vt	35	31
May 2	"	Kenneth D McClure	M	L	1	W Willard A Davis	Nellie O Smith	W	Nelson	Laborer	Acton Mass	Stoddard	23	19
July 2	"		F	L	2	W Charles E Shoults	Mary E McClure	W	Stoddard		Stoddard		41	26
Sept 12	"	Walter E Sweett	M	L	2	W C B McClure	Susie Knowls	W	"	Farmer	Stoddard	New Milf'd Con	38	24
Oct 23	"		M	L	6	W Daniel E Sweatt		W	"	"				
Nov 5	"	Byron E Gary	M	L	1	W Henry C Masher	Lizzie Windham	W	"	"	Nova Scotia	Marlow N H	23	20
Nov 29	"		M	L	2	W Walter S Pollard	Martha E Howard	W	"	"	Bridgewater Vt	Gilsom	42	36
Dec 6	"		M	L	2	W Ira Gary	Rosabel Reed	W	"	"	Reding Mass	Stoddard	52	21

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Henry E. Messinger, Town Clerk.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TO THE SELECTMEN:— In Compliance with an act of the legislature, passed June session 1887, requiring Clerks of cities and towns to furnish a transcript of the record of births, marriages and deaths, to the municipal officers, for publication in the annual reports, I hereby submit the following:—

Marriages registered in the town of Stoddard, N. H. for the year ending Dec. 31, 1896.

Date of Marriage	Place of Marriage	Name and Surname of Groom and Bride	Residence of each at time of marriage	Age in years	Color of each	Occupation of Groom & Bride	Birthplace of each	Names of Parents	Birthplace of Parents	Occupation	What marriage 1st 2d 3d &c	Name, Residence and Official station of person by whom married
Oct 26	Keene N H	Wesley P Hodgman Lizzie L Mears	Stoddard Keene	44 41	W W	Farmer Dress-maker	Stoddard Stoddard	Paschal P. Hodgman Susan A. Hodgman Daniel W. Mears Clarica Mears	Stoddard Bridgwater Vt Stoddard Stoddard	Farmer Gardener	2 1	W G Poor Con'g Pastor Keene N H

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Henry E. Messinger, Town Clerk.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TO THE SELECTMEN:—IN Compliance with an act of the legislature, passed June session 1887, requiring Clerks of cities and towns to furnish a transcript of the record of births, marriages and deaths, to the municipal officers, for publication in the annual reports, I hereby submit the following:—

Deaths registered in the town of Stoddard, N. H. for the year ending Dec. 31, 1896.

Date of Death	Place of Death	Name and Surname of Deceased	AGE			Place of Death	Male or Female	Color	Single or Widowed	Occupation	PLACE OF BIRTH		Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	Disease or Cause of Death
			Years	Months	Days						Father	Mother			
Jan 2	Stoddard N H	Gilman Stacy	81	7	11	Stoddard	M	W	M	Farmer	Marblehead Mass	Stoddard	Samuel Stacy	Mary Hardy	Heart Disease
Jan 19	So Stoddard	Bryan Carney	85			Ireland	M	W	W	Farmer		Ireland	Alvah H Corey	Jane E Boynton	Pneumonia
Mar 14	Stoddard N H	Gurtrude M Corey	24	5	8	Washington	F	W	S	Dressmaker	Charleston Mass	Milford	Oliver Hodgman	Lydia Towne	Consumption
Mar 16	Stoddard N H	Mitta H Scripture	84	1	22	Hartland Vt	F	W	W		Ashby Mass	Milford	Boston Mass	Ella E Osgood	Dropsy
May 27	Stoddard N H	Eula May Abbot	5	1	24	Stoddard	F	W	W		Stoddard	Stoddard	Stoddard	Betsy Torbell	Scarlet Fever
May 29	Stoddard N H	Milan A Dodge	63			"	M	W	M	Farmer	Stoddard	Stoddard	Ralph Dodge	Rosabel Reed	Heart Disease
Aug 11	Stoddard N H	Charles E Gary		10		"	M	W	W		Redding Mass	Stoddard	Ira Gary		Cholera-inf'
Sept 18	Stoddard N H	Johnathan D Hale	79	2		"	M	W	M	Farmer		Fitzwilliam	Obed Hale		Old Age
Oct 7	Stoddard N H	Lewis Davis	79	5	3	Gilsun	M	W	W	Farmer	Gilsun	Hancock	John Davis	Martha Phillips	Cysatis
Dec 2	Stoddard N H	James M Robb	55	10		Stoddard	M	W	M	Farmer	Stoddard	Hancock	James Robb	Esther Nahor	Consumption

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Henry E. Messinger, Town Clerk.



